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# **Library's Role in Preservation of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance in Benue State**

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## **Abstract**

*Tiv traditional music and dance has suffered a callous and conscienceless brute from the colonial masters and the Christian Religious vendors of the west and as such, the non-preservation and documentation of the Tiv traditional music and dance invariably became one factor that evaded the status of oral and calligraphic tradition in the making of Tiv philosophy, science and technology. The paper therefore looks at preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance; and the library's role in curtailing the discrimination and degrading tendencies it suffered before now as well as how far the library has placed a devoted attachment of preservation on the Tiv traditional music and dance today. 131 library users and staff were sampled using questionnaire and observation checklist. While mean and standard deviation statistics were used to answer research questions, Chi-Square was used for testing the hypotheses formulated. It was discovered that even in the present Tiv speaking local government areas of Benue state, purposeful and conscientious efforts have not been made to acquire Tiv traditional music and dance because of lack of funds, manpower, technical knowledge and skills as well as initiative on the part of library management, not to talk of its preservation. It was therefore recommended that there should be a policy statement on library acquisition and preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance, adequate funds should be provided constantly to capture Tiv traditional music and dance in whatever formats appropriate in the libraries in Tiv speaking local government areas and there should be adequate manpower with technical knowledge and skills in the concerned libraries.*

**Keywords:** Tiv traditional music and dance, Traditional Music, Music, Dance, Tiv Culture

## **Introduction**

Public libraries anywhere they are established, is for the purpose of development. They are a reservoir of society's intellectual history, the custodians of people's knowledge and information. Their collection forms the body (theory) of knowledge from which the young members of the society are taught from. Quite so, public library's primary role in the society is to collect information sources of diverse kinds among others. This is their most crucial function of all. It involves among other things collecting information bearing materials from different sources, organizations and sometime even initiating and encouraging programs that would enable them capture traditional, socio-cultural and economic activities as well as appropriate information formats for posterity.

For developing countries such as Nigeria, audio and audio-visual media are the appropriate information formats of capturing information for the people. The activities that the library captures are those that seem to elude creative minds such as writers, authors, and researchers but which are very important and endangered to go into extinction. The second most important function of public libraries is to preserve all these intellectual output of the society that has been collected. These are the imperatives that enable public libraries to provide resources and services in diverse variety of media to meet the needs of individuals and groups for education, information and professional development including recreation and leisure in the society it is found.

## **Statement of the Problem**

Tiv traditional music and dance has been useful for entertainment, education of children and the teaching of moral standards and behavior in the past. But this has suffered a decline due to non-preservation and encouragement among other factors. This is ongoing despite the efforts of arts and culture ministry in the state as it is difficult to see the people in any community practicing it. This may be one of the reasons for moral decadence in the Tiv society today. If this is allowed to continue, there is a definite tendency that the Tiv society will suffer cultural disintegration and squalor. Hence there is a need to investigate efforts of the library to preserve and encourage the people in this

direction through their information preservation, dissemination and services.

### **Purpose of the Study**

This study seeks to know library's role in preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance for the benefit of the people of Benue State and posterity. Specifically, the study sought to:

- (i) Identify the types of Tiv traditional music and dances acquired in Benue state public libraries.
- (ii) Identify the methods of preserving Tiv traditional music and dance formats adopted in the library if any.
- (iii) Identify factors hindering the acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance.
- (iv) Identify factors hindering the effective preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance if applicable.
- (v) To proffer strategies of improving the acquisition and preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance

### **Research Questions**

- (i) What are the types of Tiv traditional music and dance acquired in public libraries in Benue State?
- (ii) What are the methods of preserving this Tiv traditional music and dance formats in Benue State public libraries?
- (iii) What are the factors hindering the acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue state?
- (iv) What are the factors hindering the effective preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue state?
- (v) What are the strategies of improving the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance?

### **Research hypotheses**

- (i) The library has not played a significant role in the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments of Benue State
- (ii) There are no significant measures taken by the library to improve its preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments of Benue State

## **Literature Review**

**The Library.** A public library is a library that provides unrestricted access to library resources and services free of charge to all the residents of a given community supported wholly or in part by public funds (Joan, 2005). Public libraries are heterogeneous in nature hence, have numerous users who need information for various purposes. Members of the public, government and nongovernmental organizations need information for their various needs to enable them solve their problems; the students need this information for their studies and research. The lecturers need this information for their teaching and research. Essentially, researchers also undertake their various studies using the information sources from libraries.

In the present dispensation, reliable and relevant information is now recognized to be vitally important and of great value, (Ikpaahindi, 2008). The desire for it is more today than ever; the trend which information is sought for and is used presently is even higher. Since there are many other sources from which information is acquired other than libraries, it becomes necessary that the library should do everything possible to ensure that its relevance is felt among its clients who value its usefulness on the basis of available and useful information found in it, (Atsugh & Gwaza, 2012).

Libraries provide information using print materials such as books, periodicals like journals, magazines, newspapers, etc. Other forms in which libraries provide information include visuals such as posters, pictures, diagrams, drawings, etc. Furthermore, libraries provide information in other forms like audio such as radios, public announcements using public addressed system (PAS), tape recorders, and the like. Other ways which libraries provide information are audiovisuals such as televisions, projectors, etc. In addition; libraries provide internet services as well. All these means and forms are meant to cater for information needs of users including literate and illiterates. What matters is disseminating information in appropriate formats to meet information needs of the people and the society timely. Edoka (2000) supports the services library provides by saying the entire human and material resources in a library are put in place at considerable expense for the overall purpose of providing effective services to the library user.

**Tiv Traditional Music and Dance.** Music is at the helms of the culture of the Tiv people so much that there is virtually any occasion among or involving Tiv people at which one type of Tiv music or the other is not played and therefore, it will not be an aberration to note that the life and philosophy of a Tiv man is not complete without music.

The concept of Tiv traditional music is quite broad in nature and so entwined that a Tiv man does not talk about music, singing and dancing separately. Tiv traditional music (*kwaghkuhan ú Tiv*) is a form of music involving song (*imo* or *icam*), dance (*amar* or *ishor*) and music (*kwaghkuhan*) that originates from a Tiv man or Tiv people of any geographical location in the world.

The Tiv traditional music, a phenomenon quite appealing to the urgent temper of the aged folks and youth, capable of uprooting unpleasant and heavy sensation that sit at the hearts of men is an institution of its own organized into different forms. It has contributed immeasurably to life and constitutes life and living not only to a Tiv man but also to the human soul of the entire world populace.

Hagher (2003) confidently asserted that we can say that all Tiv dances contribute to physical and emotional release. He further explained that this is because dance itself possess the unique opportunity for a variety of emotional expression. The dancers are able to release otherwise inexpressible thoughts and ideas, let off steam, and also resolve social conflicts.

Apparently, so many people have contributed immensely to the development of Tiv traditional music and dance such as Yamuel Yashi, Tyo Ulaga, Iorlumun Abeekya, Udo Mbalagh, Solomon Abua, Ature Hom Agena, Oliver Yinamga Aye, Atayo Koko, Bam Ginde and Uba Eren. Others are Chivan Utange, Ageva Jija, Godwin Adigo, Akurega Ajav, Antyu Abwa, Utuku Agire, Iorshe Hir, Obadiah Kehemen Orkor, Anche Igbyaaze, Akire Bende, Amee Jorpo, Agugu Igbakumbur, Maza Nomhwange, Agoho Agber Ligom, Wuhe Ikyambe Agbee, Izua Gbe and host of others. However, the importance of Mike Mbatyelevde Matar JP in Tiv traditional music and dance seem to surpass all the rest because he contribute to keeping of the Tiv oral history and philosophy through his brand of Swange

music known as Ngigh-Ngigh, which was one of the most desent brands of Swange music and dance.

Swange music like others would have followed its prescribed course into total obscurity in the mid-1970s when the flamboyant Abua introduced his Kpingi Dance, which made the modern Swange music to be threatened with extinction however, with the rise of Michael Mbatyelevde and introduction of Ngigh-Ngigh Swange Dance that was conceived by Udoo Mbalagh, Swange music wore its live jacket and flourished unto this day. Mbatyelevde like many others has contributed positively to the Tiv society at large by been able to generally sustain Tiv oral history and philosophy through Ngigh-Ngigh music and maintained decency in the Tiv traditional music and dance industry. Essentially, the public library is now left with the responsibility to acquire and preserve these forms of Tiv traditional music and dance for posterity.

**Preservation.** Ordinarily, the term preservation means to keep safe from injury, harm or destruction. In essence, preservation is one aspect of library function that is estimably necessary to the core of library services. Atuh (2011) observed that preservation of the library materials is somewhat used in the place of conservation of the library materials to mean the same especially by the non-librarians.

In library terms therefore, preservation according to Joan (2005) is prolonging the existence of library and archival materials by maintaining them in condition suitable for use, either in their original format or in a form more durable, through retention under proper environmental conditions or actions taken after a book or collection has been damaged to prevent further deterioration.

Preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance is the preservation of print and audiovisual materials on Tiv music and dance so as to ensure that the intellectual and cultural heritage acquired and generated by this generation can be transmitted to the future generations yet unborn. These Tiv traditional music and dances include Swange music and dance, Ingyôugh music and dance, Girinya music and dance, Diga music and dance, Ange music and dance, Ibyamegh music and dance and so many others.

## **Methodology**

The study adopted the descriptive survey design. The target population of this study was library workers and library users in Tiv speaking local governments in Benue State. There are 7 public libraries in the Tiv speaking local governments areas of Benue State they include libraries in Makurdi, Gboko, Vandeikya, Katsina Ala, Gungur, Aliade and Adikpo with about 33 workers all over the local governments, (Mngutyô, 2011; Mngutyô & Amaakaven, 2013). This is made up of 5 librarians and 8 library officers in Makurdi local government, 1 librarian in Gboko and 1 each from the five local government areas amounting to 19. The researchers selected 18 workers and 113 library users. Therefore, the sample size of 131 from the selected local governments was drawn using the sample size table, (Emaikwu, 2012).

The instrument used for data collection was Library Role in Preservation of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance Assessment Questionnaire (LRPTTMDAQ) constructed by the researchers. Section A of the questionnaire was on bio-data that included sex, local government, age and occupation. Section B consisted of 7 variables of types of Tiv traditional music and dance acquired in public libraries. Section C consisted of 4 variables of methods of preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance. Section D consisted of 6 variables of factors hindering the acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance. Section E consisted of 5 variables of factors hindering the effective preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance and section F consisted of 7 variables of strategies of improving the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance. The 29 item questionnaire adapted a 4 point rating scale. Respondents were asked to respond by ticking the correct or applicable responses (SA) strongly agree, (A) agree, (D) disagree and (SD) strongly disagree. Mean and standard deviation was used for the analysis. Therefore, any item of the instrument whose mean rating scores is 2.50 and above will be considered significant and if any item is less, it will not be considered significant.



### Research Question 1

#### What are the types of Tiv traditional music and dance acquired in public libraries in Benue State?

To answer the research question, related data on types of Tiv traditional music and dance acquired in public libraries in Benue State were collected, analyzed and presented in the Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Types of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance Acquired in Public libraries**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Swange music and dance	131	1.7557	1.04581
Ingyôugh music and dance	131	2.2366	1.24550
Girinya music and dance	131	1.6489	.77384
Diga music and dance	131	1.5191	.82603
Ange music and dance	131	2.4427	1.15132
Ibyamegh music and dance	131	2.2061	1.04305
Others	131	1.5954	.85735
Valid N (listwise)	131		

From Table 1 above, it can be seen that the mean rating scores of all the items are below 2.50, which means respondents have disagreed that the public library does not acquire Swange music and dance, Ingyôugh music and dance, Girinya music and dance, Ibyamegh music and dance and other forms of Tiv traditional music and dance. Therefore, it is clear that the public library does not acquire Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments of Benue State.

### Research Question 2

#### What are the methods of preservation of Tiv traditional music and dances in Benue State public libraries?

To answer the research question, data was collected on methods of preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue State. The collected data were analyzed and presented in the Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of Methods of Preservation of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance in Public libraries**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Library acquires materials on Tiv traditional music and dance	131	1.4122	.76329
Library laminates the acquired printed materials on Tiv traditional music and dance using cello-tape to protect the materials	131	1.9008	1.09443
Library records conversion of rare information like manuscripts on Tiv traditional music and dance into videocassette and audiocassette	131	1.9924	1.21842
Library photocopies original materials on Tiv traditional music and dance to reproduce surrogate copies	131	2.8321	1.13105
Valid N (listwise)	131		

The result in Table 2 shows the mean rating scores of all the items below 2.50 except library photocopies original materials on Tiv traditional music and dance to reproduce surrogate copies with the mean rating score of 2.8321 and standard deviation of 1.13105. This means that public libraries do not adopt any preservation method of Tiv traditional music and dance apart from the method of photocopying original materials on Tiv traditional music and dance to reproduce surrogate copies.

However, based on the observation checklist, it can be noted that hence public libraries in Benue State do not acquire materials on Tiv traditional music and dance; they do not as well adopt any method of preservation of same.

### **Research Question 3**

**What are the factors hindering the acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue state?**

To answer the research question, data was collected on factors hindering the acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue State. The collected were analyzed and presented in the Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Descriptive Statistics of Factors Hindering the Acquisition of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance in Public libraries**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
No Policy Statement on the acquisition of Tiv Traditional Music and dance	131	3.0687	1.10378
Lack of funds	131	3.6870	.46549
Lack of manpower	131	3.2748	.74476
Lack of technical knowledge and skill	131	2.9313	.55734
Lack of initiative on the part of library management	131	3.6870	.69153
Others	131	3.1679	.66970
Valid N (listwise)	131		

From the above table, it can be seen that all the items in the instrument relating to factors hindering the acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance have their mean rating scores above 2.50, which means respondents agreed that no policy statement on the acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance, lack of funds, lack of manpower, lack of technical knowledge and skill, lack of initiative on the part of library management and other factors are the factors hindering the acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue State.

#### Research Question 4

**What are the factors hindering the effective preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue state?**

To answer the research question, data on factors hindering the effective preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue State was collected, analyzed and presented in the Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Descriptive Statistics of Factors Hindering the Effective Preservation of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance in Public libraries**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Misappropriation of library funds	131	2.8550	.96971
Acquisition of substandard library materials	131	3.6107	.71868
Lack of technical knowhow	131	3.8855	.44100
Lack of Preservation Policy on Tiv Traditional Music And Dance	131	3.7939	.40606
Lack of acquisition	131	3.5496	.49944
Valid N (listwise)	131		

The result in Table 4 shows all the items in the instrument relating to factors hindering the effective preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance having their mean rating scores above 2.50. This means respondents agreed that misappropriation of library funds, acquisition of substandard library materials, lack of technical knowhow, lack of preservation policy on Tiv traditional music and dance and lack of acquisition are the factors hindering the effective preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue State. The observation checklist however revealed that Tiv traditional music and dance are not acquired in Tiv speaking local government areas where libraries are located, hence cannot be said to be hindered by any of the factors above in terms of preservation..

### Research Question 5

#### **What are the strategies of improving the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance?**

To answer the research question, data was collected on the strategies of improving the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in public libraries in Benue State. The collected were analyzed and presented in the Table 5 below.

**Table 5: Descriptive Statistics of Strategies of Improving the Preservation of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance in Public libraries**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
There should be a Policy Statement on Acquisition of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance	131	3.0687	1.10378
There should be a Policy Statement on Preservation of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance	131	3.6870	.46549
Adequate acquisition of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance materials in public libraries	131	3.2748	.74476
Provision of adequate funds	131	2.9313	.55734
There should be technical knowhow	131	3.6870	.69153
Adequate supply of manpower	131	3.1679	.66970
Initiation of programs that will facilitate the recording of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance	131	2.8550	.96971
Valid N (listwise)	131		

From the above table, it can be seen that all the items in the instrument relating to strategies of improving the preservation of Tiv traditional

music and dance have their mean rating scores above 2.50. This is to say that respondents do agreed that there should be a policy statement on acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance, there should be a policy statement on preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance, adequate acquisition of Tiv traditional music and dance materials in public libraries, provision of adequate funds, there should be technical knowhow, adequate supply of manpower, initiation of programs that will facilitate the recording of Tiv traditional music and dance are the strategies of improving the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance.

## Research Hypotheses

Hypotheses were formulated to test the significances if there are in the study, in the study area. The hypotheses are tested at 0.05 level of significance. Since Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) is used for this analysis, the 0.05 is compared with Asymp. Sig (computer calculated probability for decision taking) value denoted as P. Therefore, if P is greater than 0.05 the hypothesis will be accepted, (Agber, Mngutyô & Ugbagir, 2013).

## Hypotheses 1

**The library has not played a significant role in the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments of Benue State**

To test for the hypothesis 1 above, data on the library's role in the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in Benue State was collected, analyzed and presented in Table 6 below.

**Table 6: Chi-Square Test of Opinion of Library Workers and Users on Library's Role in Preservation of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance**

	Observ ed N	Expecte d N	$\chi^2$	df	Asymp. Sig	Remarks
The library has not played a role in the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance	107	65.6	52.588	1	.000	Significant
The library has played a significant role in the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance	24	65.5				
Total	131					

From the above Table 6, it can be seen that 107 with expected frequency of 65.5 respondents are of the opinion that the library has

not played a role in the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance while 24 with expected frequency of 65.5 respondents have agreed that the library has played a significant role in the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance. Testing for the difference,  $\chi^2 = 52.588$  with  $df = 1$  and had computer calculated probability for decision taking (Asymp. Sig.) = .000 = P. Since P is less than 0.05 (significance level) then the difference is significant. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected with the conclusion that the library has not played a significant role in the preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments of Benue State.

## Hypotheses 2

### **There are no significant measures taken by the library to improve its preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments of Benue State**

To test for the hypothesis 2 above, data was collected on measures taken by the library to improve its preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments of Benue State. The collected data were analyzed and presented in Table 7 below.

**Table 7: Chi-Square Test of Opinion of Library Workers and Users on Measures taken to Improve Preservation of Tiv Traditional Music and Dance**

	Observed N	Expected N	$\chi^2$	df	Asymp. Sig.	Remarks
There are no measures taken by the library to improve its preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance	112	65.6	66.023	1	.000	Significant
There are significant measures taken by the library to improve its preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance	19	65.5				
Total	131					

Table 7 shows 112 with expected frequency of 65.5 respondents who said that there are no measures taken by the library to improve its preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance and 19 with expected frequency of 65.5 respondents with the opinion that there are significant measures taken by the library to improve its preservation of

Tiv traditional music and dance. Testing for the difference,  $\chi^2 = 66.023$  with  $df = 1$  and had computer calculated probability for decision taking (Asymp. Sig.) = .000 = P. Therefore, since P is less than 0.05 (significance level) then the difference is significant. The hypothesis is therefore rejected with the conclusion that there are no significant measures taken by the library to improve its preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments of Benue State.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Based on the result of this study, it was discovered that the public library has done little or nothing consciously in the acquisition and preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance in the Tiv speaking local governments areas of Benue State because of lack of policy statement, lack of funds, lack of manpower, lack of technical knowledge and skills and lack of initiative on the part of library management. It is therefore recommended that there should be a policy statement on library acquisition and preservation of Tiv traditional music and dance, there should be adequate provision of funds constantly to capture Tiv traditional music and dance in whatever formats appropriate to users in libraries in Tiv speaking local government areas, library management should show some commitment of being proactive in initiating the project of collecting Tiv traditional music and dance in print and non-print formats and there should be adequate manpower with technical knowledge and skills in preservation in the concerned libraries.

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